

come together to convince Saddam to make the decision to disarm.

Perhaps the biggest risk in the theater, if we were to commit our troops, is Saddam himself. He shows no regard for human life in his own country. After all, he's gassed them; he's used the weapons of mass destruction on his own people that he now claims he doesn't have. He tortures people. He brutalizes them. He could care less about human condition inside of Iraq.

And so I think one of the biggest dangers we face, if we go to war, is how he treats

innocent life. And it is important for Iraqi leadership and Iraqi generals to clearly understand that if they take innocent life, if they destroy infrastructure, they will be held to account as war criminals.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Second Additional Protocol to the Mexico-United States Taxation Convention

February 25, 2003

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Second Additional Protocol that Modifies the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Mexico City on November 26, 2002. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning the proposed Protocol.

The Convention, as amended by the proposed Protocol, would be similar to tax

treaties between the United States and other developed nations. It would provide maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection from double taxation of income. The Protocol was concluded in recognition of the importance of the United States economic relations with Mexico.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol, and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
February 25, 2003.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

February 25, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers

Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month

periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass de-

struction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
February 25, 2003.

Remarks to the Latino Coalition February 26, 2003

Bienvenidos. I want to thank *mi abogado* and my close friend for his leadership and his participation in our Government. Everybody has got to have a good lawyer—[laughter]—especially in my line of work. [Laughter] And I've got a great one with Al Gonzales. I'm proud to call him friend.

And I also want to thank the members of the Latino Coalition who are here today. I want to thank you for your work in—obviously, on political issues. But really I want to thank you for what you're doing in your own community, showing people that through hard work there's opportunity and hope, that if you're an entrepreneur—thanks for setting such a great example. Truly, one of the greatest things about the Nation is that somebody who's got a dream and who works hard can own their own business, realize their own potential. So thanks for setting the example for a lot of our fellow citizens.

I'm honored that Mel Martinez is here with us, and Hector Barreto, serving my administration. Both men are doing a fine job in important positions. I want to thank Ambassador Hans Hertell from the Dominican Republic for coming. [Applause] I see you brought an entourage with you. [Laughter] Rosario Marin, who's the Treasurer, is here. Rosario, great to see you. Josefina Carbonell, who is the Assistant Secretary for Aging, Health and Human Services, is with us.

I want to thank very much the—Robert de Posada, who is the president of the

Latino Coalition. I also want to thank Jane Delgado as well for your leadership and for working for what you think is right for the country.

El Gobernador del Estado de Hidalgo is with us today. *Gobernador, bienvenidos.* Glad you're here. I see my friend Alfredo Phillips. One of the great honors when I was the Governor of Texas was to work closely with our Mexican counterparts. *Senor* Phillips was a man who came to Austin quite frequently to talk about NADBank and mutual development programs. I'm honored you're here. I appreciate your delegation coming.

This Nation is committed to making sure we've got great relations with Mexico. The cornerstone of good foreign policy starts with making sure the neighborhood is prosperous and peaceful. I look forward to continuing to work with Vicente Fox on advancing a common agenda for the good of both nations.

And so I welcome you all here. You come to America today during times of great challenges. There are some challenges which face us, but there's no hurdle big enough for the American people not to cross. This is—we've got some mighty challenges to make sure the country is more prosperous and more hopeful and the world more peaceful. But *sin duda*, we're going to achieve what we need to achieve, *porque este pais es un gran pais*, with great values and great hope and great strength.